

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Colubridae, *Drymarchon melanurus*: Filling distribution gaps

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Drymarchon melanurus is distributed from Mexico across Central America southward into South America to western Ecuador and extreme northwestern Peru (Amaral 1929; McCranie 1980; Uetz 1995-2005; Wuster et al. 2001; Köhler 2003). The taxon *D. melanurus* (Dumeril, Bibron and Dumeril) has been generally regarded as a subspecies of *Drymarchon corais* (Boie) (Stejneger 1899; Amaral 1929; Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970; McCranie 1980). Recently, it was elevated to a full species status by Wuster et al. (2001), although some authors still recognize *D. melanurus* as a subspecies of *D. corais* (e.g., Köhler 2003). *Drymarchon melanurus* has been reported in Ecuador from the provinces of Esmeraldas, Guayas, El Oro, Imbabura, Pichincha, and Azuay (Pérez-Santos and Moreno 1991; Meza-Ramos and Yáñez-Muñoz 2003; Figure 1). Herein I report some new provincial records that fill gaps between the previously known localities.

A specimen of *Drymarchon melanurus* (FHGO 1247) was collected at the San Sebastian de Pichincha - Solanillo road ($79^{\circ}53'W$, $01^{\circ}02'S$, 200 m) on 15 August 1995. Another individual of the species (FHGO-alive 333) was collected from "La Sabana", between San Antonio and Tosagua, on 21 January 1991. Those records correspond to the first localities for the species in the province of Manabí (Figure 1).

Two specimens of *Drymarchon melanurus* were collected at Malacatos (FHGO 735) ($79^{\circ}15'W$, $04^{\circ}12'S$, 1480 m) on 01 May 1993, and at Reserva Natural El Tundo (FHGO 1661) (ca. $79^{\circ}51'W$, $04^{\circ}18'S$, 1400 m) on 30 August 1997. Those specimens along with one male individual (FHGO-alive 2475) from Cañaverales, Quebrada El Faique, Cantón Zapotillo (ca. $80^{\circ}16'W$,

$04^{\circ}03'S$, 560 m), collected on 28 April 2001, and two specimens cited by Wuster et al. (2001), represent the first localities of the species from the province of Loja (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Map of Ecuador showing the new localities of *Drymarchon melanurus* and provinces mentioned in the text: 1 = La Sabana, 2 = San Sebastian de Pichincha - Solanillo road, 3 = Cañaverales, Quebrada El Faique, 4 = Reserva Natural El Tundo, 5 = Malacatos, E = Esmeraldas, M = Manabí, G = Guayas, EL = El Oro, L = Loja, A = Azuay, P = Pichincha, I = Imbabura.

The localities herein reported in central Ecuador (Manabí) and southern Ecuador (Loja) fill the gap between localities in northern Ecuador and extreme northern Peru. Based on records presented herein, and those from other sources (McCranie 1980; Pérez-Santos and Moreno 1991; Wuster et al. 2001; Meza-Ramos and Yáñez-Muñoz 2003), *Drymarchon melanurus* inhabits the following vegetation formations in Ecuador: Lowland Evergreen Forest, Lowland Semideciduous Forest, Lowland Deciduous Forest, Foothill Evergreen Forest, Foothill Semideciduous Forest, Montane Dry Thorn and Scrub, and Low Montane Semideciduous Forest. *Drymarchon melanurus* is certainly more widespread than the present range suggested by

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the few available records, and it must inhabit other provinces like Los Ríos and Bolívar.

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